

MARVEL
COMICS



VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR

MARVEL

2

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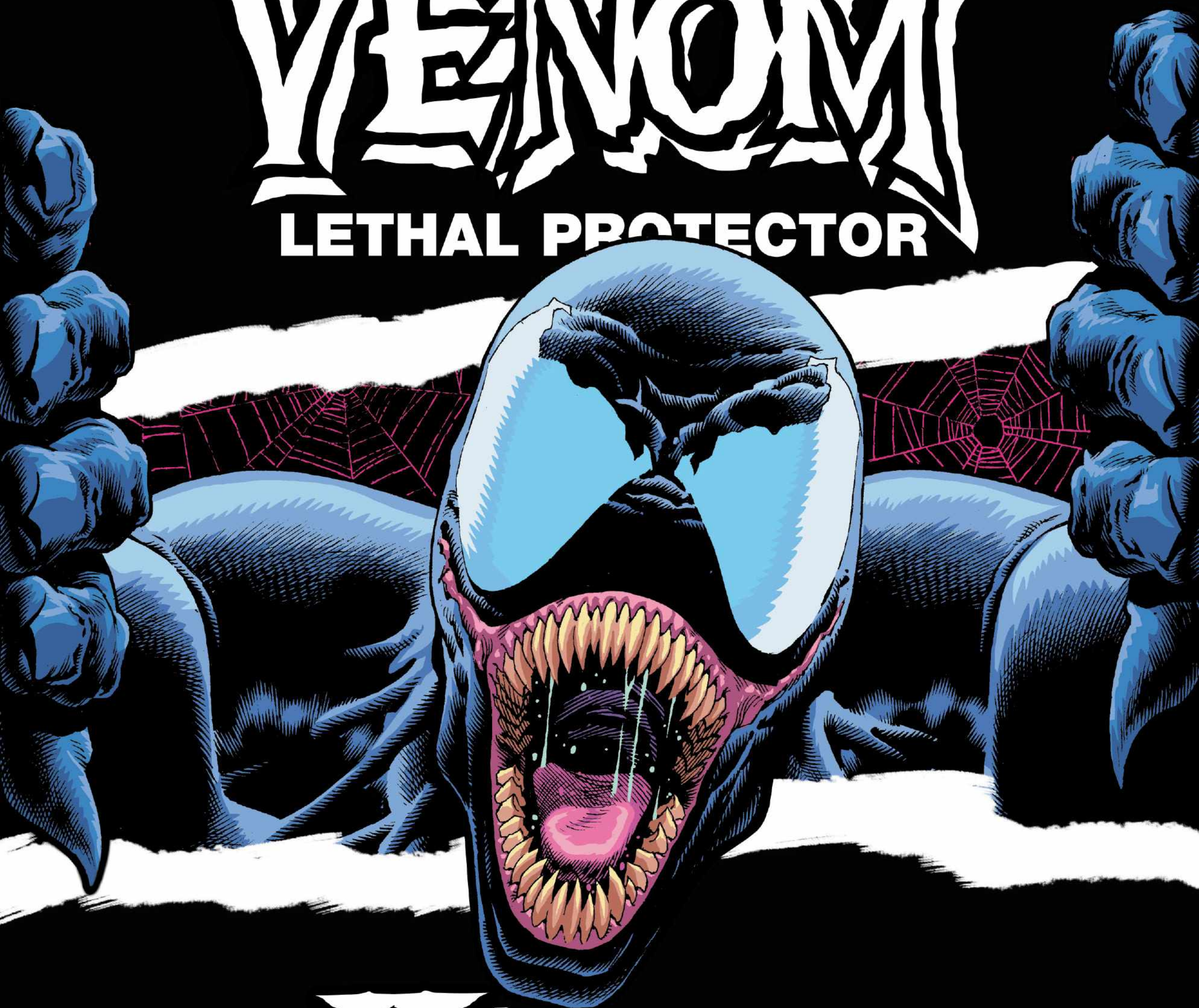
SILVER SABLE
STRIKES!

Paul
S

EDDIE BROCK WAS ONCE A RESPECTED JOURNALIST. BUT HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED WHEN ONE OF HIS SOURCES WAS EXPOSED AS A FRAUD BY SPIDER-MAN. DISGRACED, BROCK WENT TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH TO ASK FORGIVENESS BEFORE TAKING HIS OWN LIFE, UNAWARE THAT AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL PARASITE WAS IN THE PARISH'S BELL TOWER. SPURNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD BY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE CREATURE CHOSE BROCK AS ITS HOST. IN THE PROCESS, IT IMBUED HIM WITH ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES AND MORE: POWERS OF ADHESION, ORGANIC WEB-SHOOTERS ON THE BACK OF EACH HAND AND PREHENSILE TENDRILS WOVEN FROM THE CREATURE'S OWN BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. ON A TWISTED CRUSADE AND OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE, THEY ARE:

VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR



II

PART 2 of 5

TOGETHER, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE HAVE SWORN ETERNAL AND VIOLENT VENGEANCE AGAINST THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. THOUGH THEY HUNGER FOR PETER PARKER'S BRAINS, THEY HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH THEIR INCREDIBLE POWER.

VENOM RECENTLY CAME TO THE AID OF SILVER SABLE AND THE WILD PACK AGAINST THE HYPER-LETHAL AND HIGH-TECH ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS VANGUARD, SAVING HIS OLD FRIEND PABLO MENDEZ AND DENYING VANGUARD A POWERFUL ALIEN ARTIFACT WITH UNTOLD DESTRUCTIVE POWER IN THE PROCESS.

BUT VANGUARD HAS NOW SET VENOM IN ITS SIGHTS, AND THEY'LL GO THROUGH ANYTHING OR ANYONE TO GET WHAT THEY WANT. SABLE'S BEEN HIRED BY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO SAFEGUARD THE ARTIFACT, BUT SHE CAN'T KEEP IT SAFE ON HER OWN. SO SHE'S MAKING VENOM AN OFFER THEY CAN'T REFUSE...

NIGHT, NEW YORK, AS THE VIP GUEST QUARTERS ATOP THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY PLAY HOST TO A MOST UNUSUAL LUMINARY...

THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL BE HOUSED IF YOU SIGN ON AS A CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR, MR. BROCK. MEALS, REASONABLE EXPENSES AND DAILY MAID SERVICE INCLUDED.

WHAT? NO MINT ON THE PILLOW?

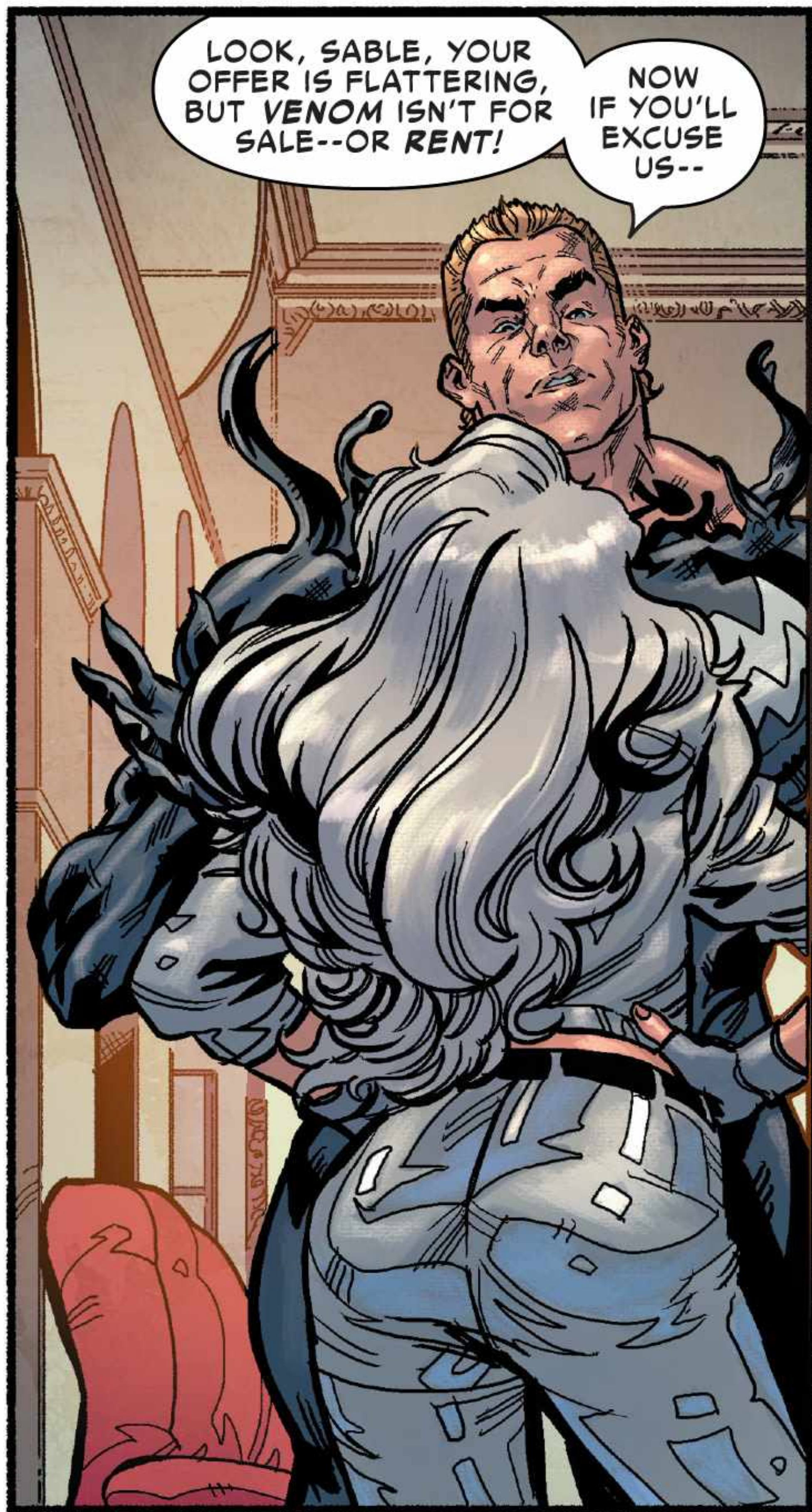
Crash

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LOOK, SABLE, YOUR OFFER IS FLATTERING, BUT VENOM ISN'T FOR SALE--OR RENT!

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US--



YOUR SALARY WILL BE ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS A DAY.

PLUS HAZARD PAY FOR ABNORMALLY DANGEROUS SITUATIONS AND A BONUS FOR COMPLETED MISSIONS.



THAT'S... ODDLY **GENEROUS**. WHY OFFER US SUCH A DEAL?

YOUR ACTIONS AGAINST VANGUARD AT THE BUNKER YESTERDAY WERE IMPRESSIVE.

YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY TURNED THE TIDE OF BATTLE.*

*LAST ISSUE.



AND AS A BUSINESSWOMAN, I LOOK FOR ANY **ADVANTAGE** I CAN GAIN OVER MY OPPOSITION.

I'M HOPING YOU WILL JUSTIFY SUCH AN INVESTMENT.



A THOUSAND A DAY... PLUS BONUSES? YES, THAT COULD PAY PABLO'S TUITION, AT LEAST FOR A SEMESTER.



VERY WELL. WE'LL DO IT.

FOR PABLO!



BUT AT THE MOMENT, THAT YOUNG MAN IS MORE CONCERNED WITH AFFORDING A MEAL THAN AN EDUCATION.

GOOD! LADY AT THE REGISTER'S NOT LOOKIN'! I'LL JUST SLIP THIS INTO MY POCKET, AND--



PUT IT BACK, PABLO. SLOWLY.

HEY, I--I WAS JUST LOOKIN', MISTER! HONEST--



--WAITAMINIT! HOW'D YOU KNOW MY NAME?

WE'VE BEEN KEEPIN' AN EYE ON YOU, EX-CADET MENDEZ.



VANGUARD HAS A THING ABOUT DESERTERS--

--AND THE DIRECTOR WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT WITH YOU.



NOW!

MORNING ARRIVES, AS DOES THE MASSIVE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER AT A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP IN BROOKLYN.

SORRY, SABLE, BUT OUR DECISION IS FINAL: THE SORNAI ARTIFACT IS BEING SHIPPED TO A MORE SECURE LOCATION--

--AND YOUR CONTRACT WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS BEEN VOIDED!

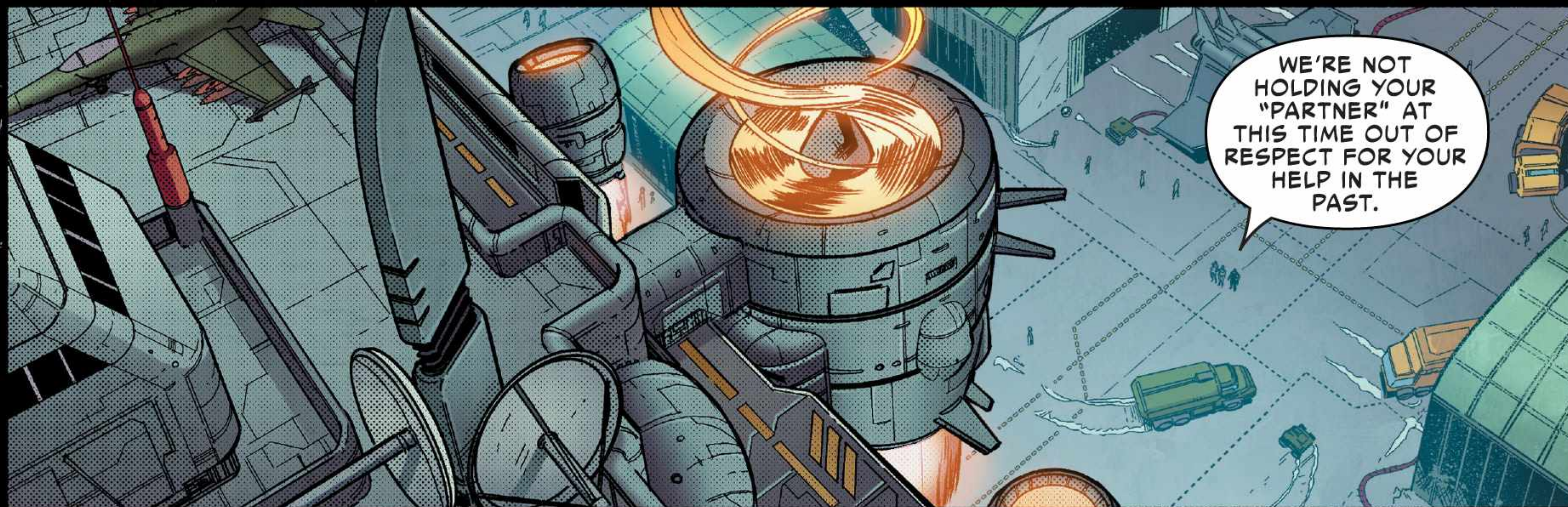
YOUR PROTECTION OF THE ARTIFACT WAS DEEMED QUESTIONABLE WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF AN OUTSIDE FORCE*--

*AGAIN, LAST ISSUE.

--AND YOUR HIRING OF A PSYCHOPATH AS YOUR RIGHT-HAND MAN DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE!

NO OFFENSE.

NONE TAKEN.

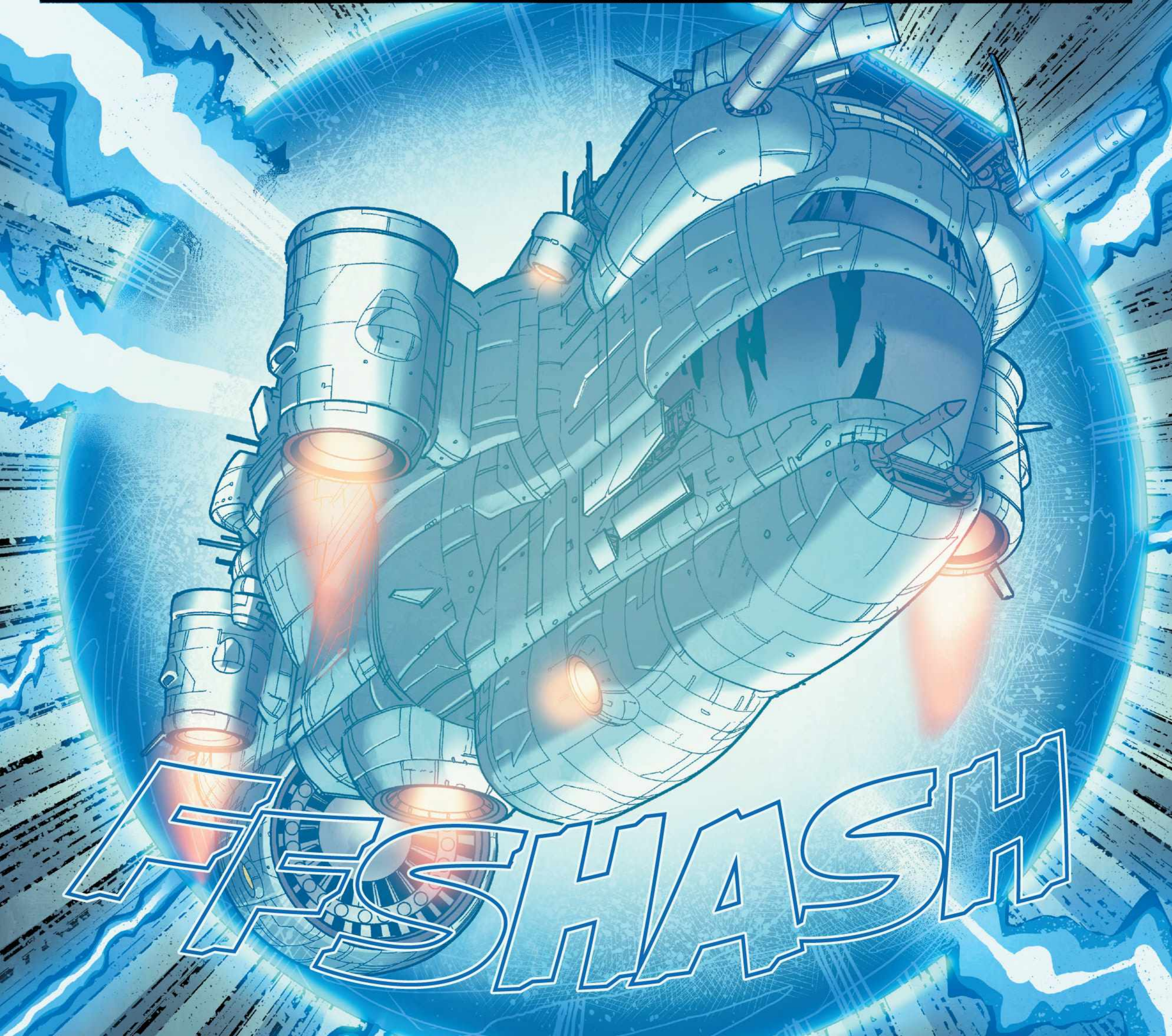


WE'RE NOT
HOLDING YOUR
"PARTNER" AT
THIS TIME OUT OF
RESPECT FOR YOUR
HELP IN THE
PAST.

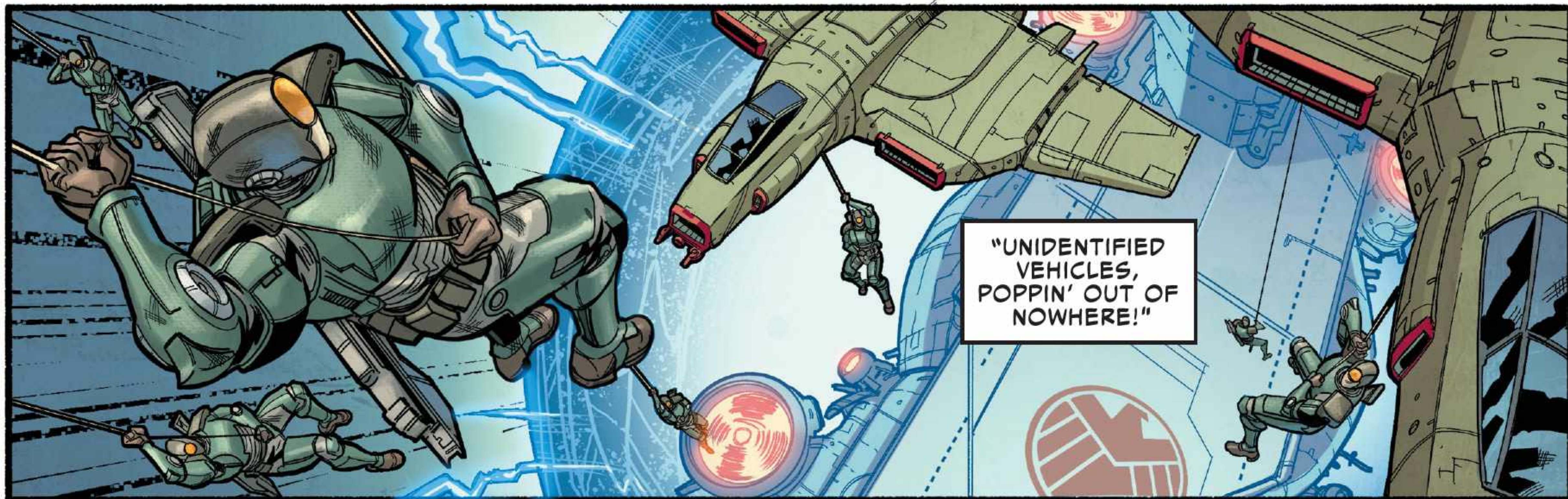


PLUS, WE DIDN'T WANT
TO TRIGGER THE KIND OF
SLAUGHTER THAT MIGHT
FOLLOW IF--

COLONEL
FURY!
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING TO
THE HELI--



FLASH

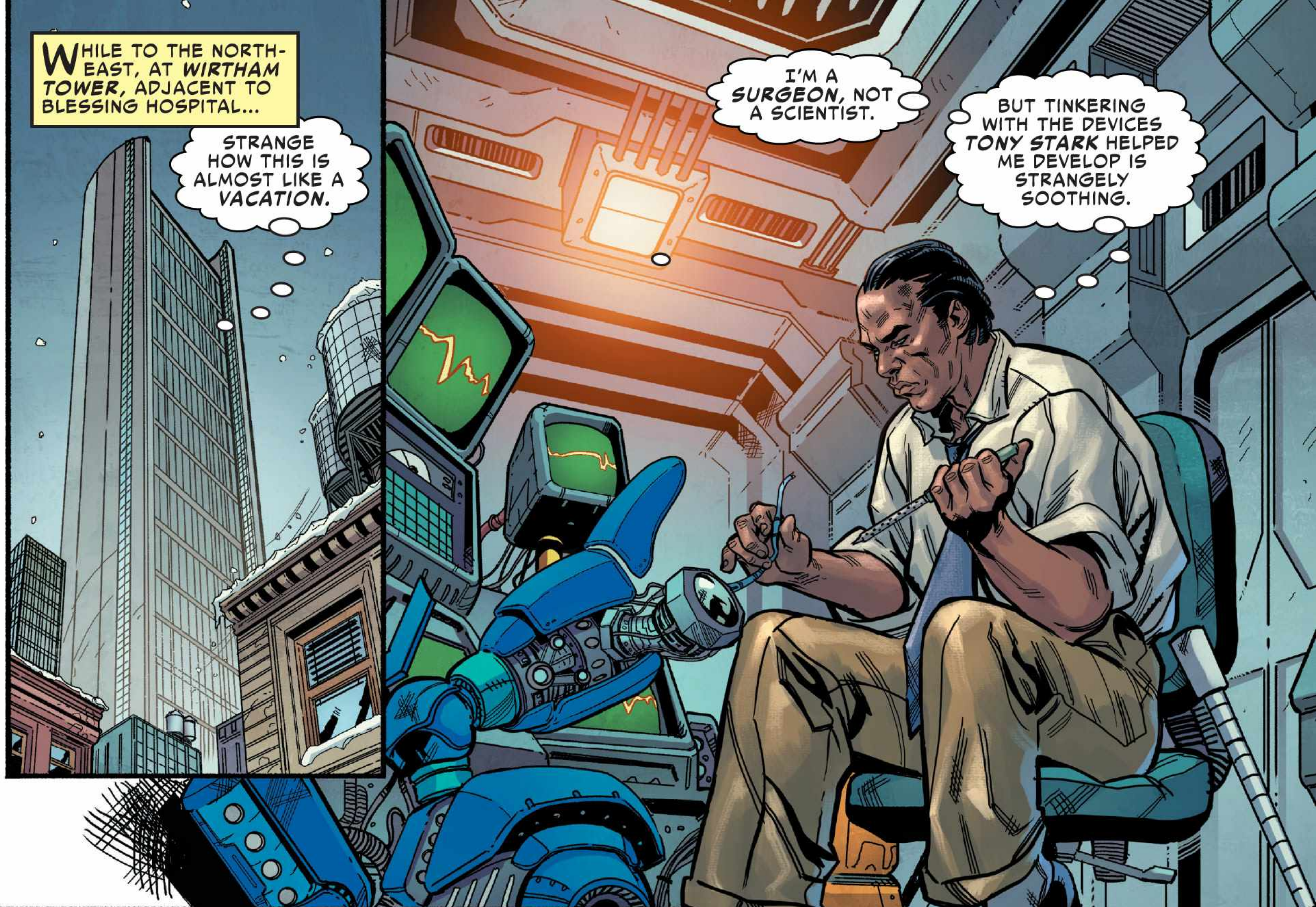


WHILE TO THE NORTH-EAST, AT WIRTHAM TOWER, ADJACENT TO BLESSING HOSPITAL...

STRANGE HOW THIS IS ALMOST LIKE A VACATION.

I'M A SURGEON, NOT A SCIENTIST.

BUT TINKERING WITH THE DEVICES TONY STARK HELPED ME DEVELOP IS STRANGELY SOOTHING.

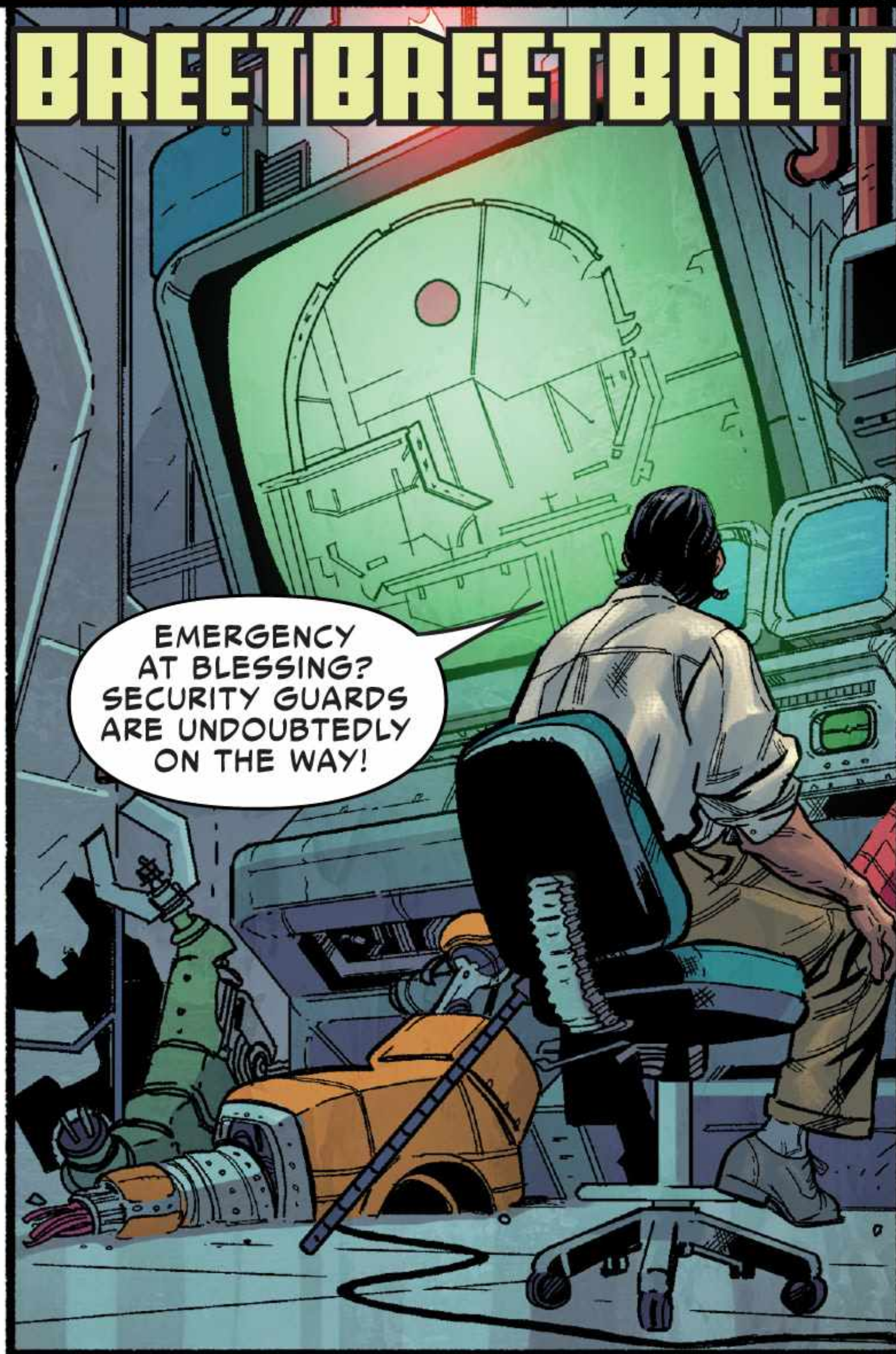


TAKES MY MIND OFF THE INJUSTICES OF THE WORLD, THE LEGAL EVILS I FACE AS CARDIAC.



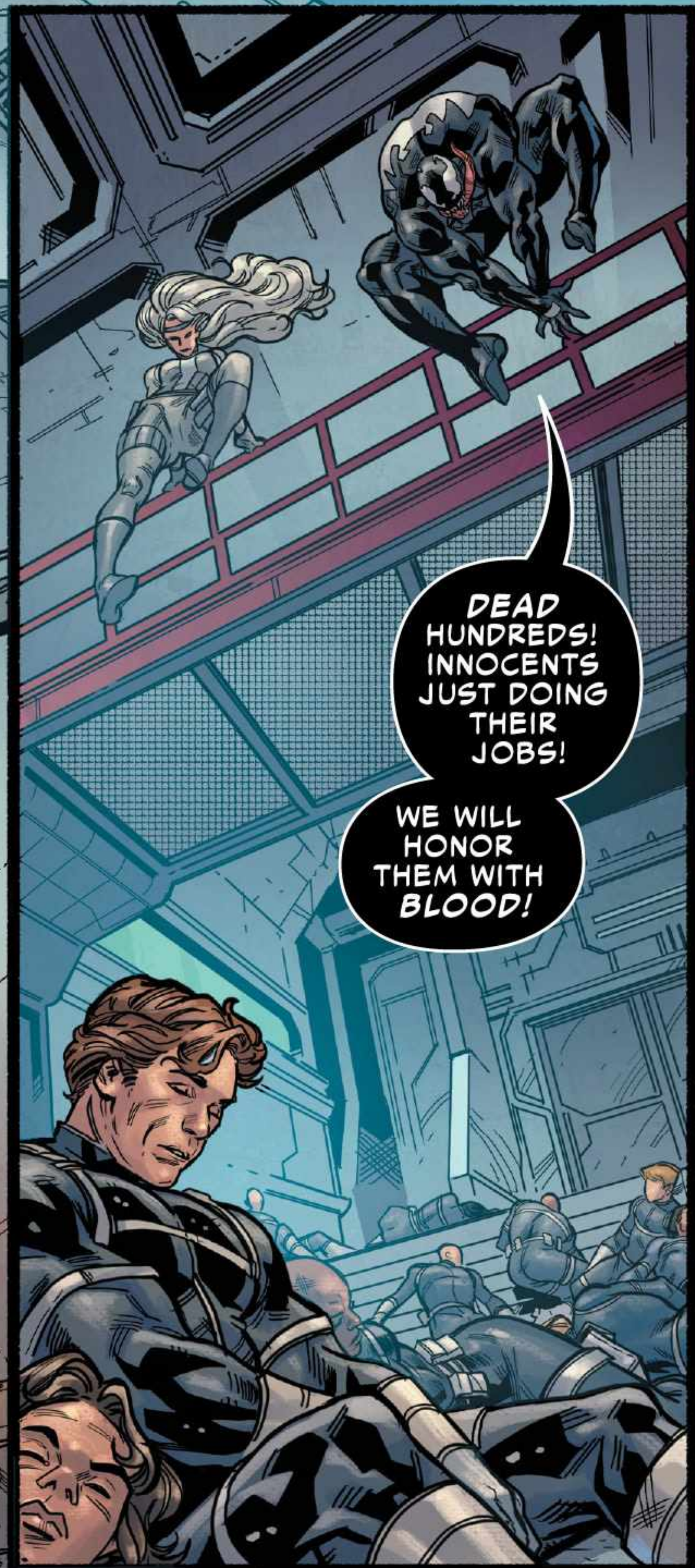
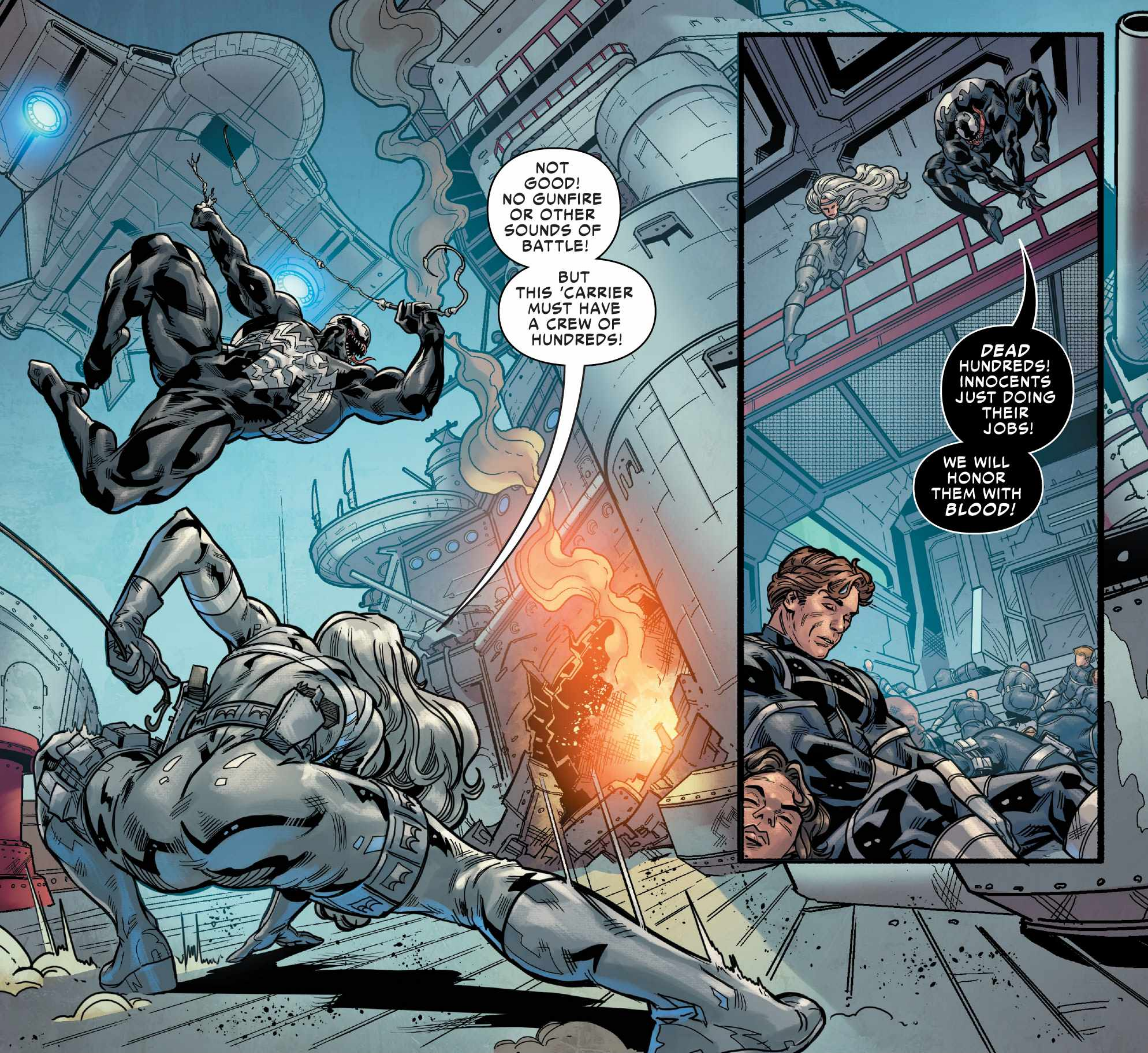
BREETBREETBREET

EMERGENCY AT BLESSING? SECURITY GUARDS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY ON THE WAY!



BUT IT COULDN'T HURT TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA HELP AVAILABLE!







YOU
REALLY NEED
TO ASK?

KRAK
KRAK

KRAK
KRAK

KRAK

PLUP

PLUP



WHILE AT THE LONGEVITY RESEARCH WING OF BLESSING HOSPITAL...

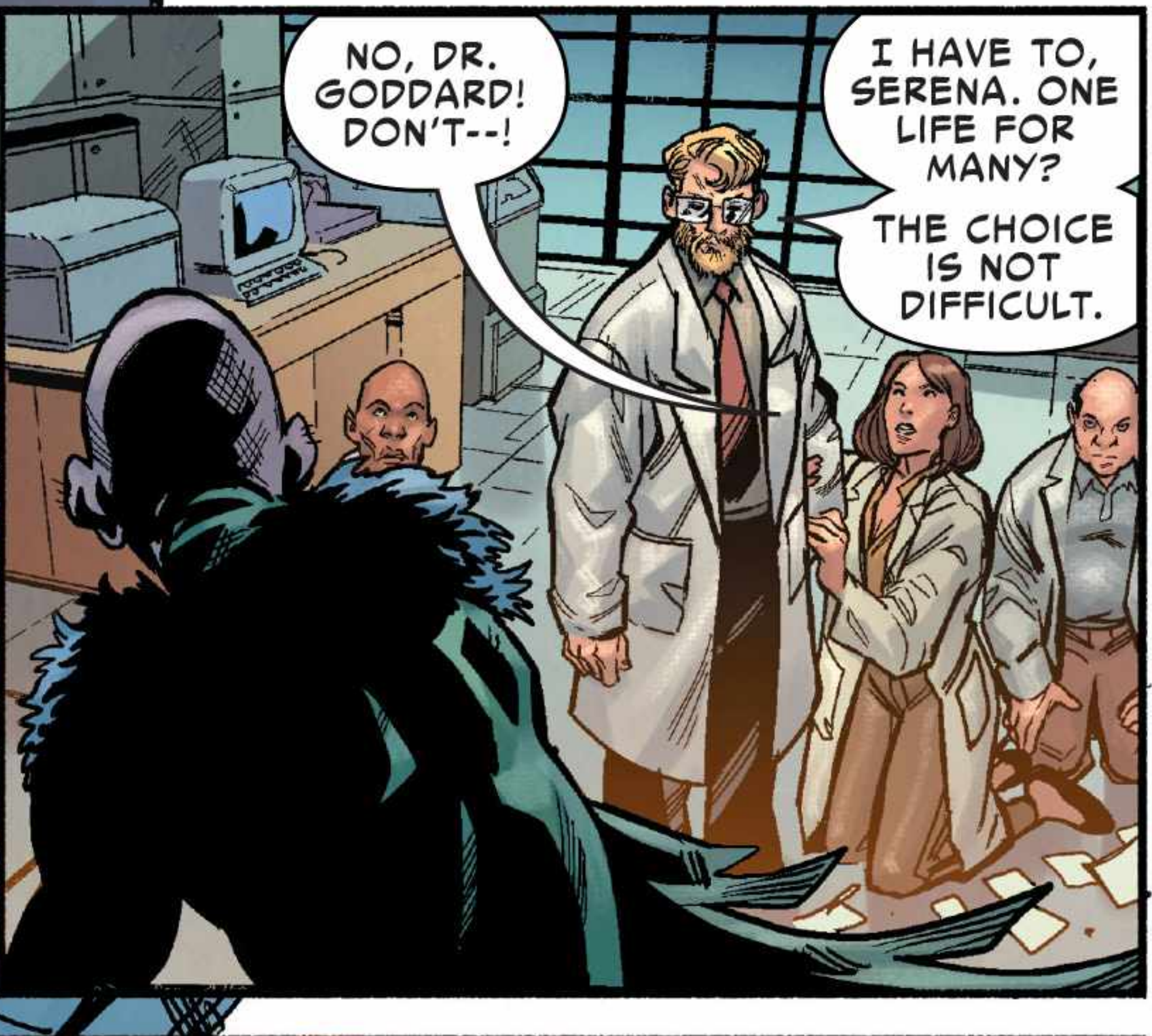


AW MAN! I DIDN'T SIGN ON TO FIGHT A SUPER VILLAIN!

YOU MIGHT NOT NEED TO, IF YOU'RE SMART!



GIVE ME FRANZ GODDARD, HEAD OF THIS DEPARTMENT, AND EVERYONE LIVES. OTHERWISE...!



NO, DR. GODDARD! DON'T--!

I HAVE TO, SERENA. ONE LIFE FOR MANY? THE CHOICE IS NOT DIFFICULT.



THEN LET ME MAKE IT FOR YOU!

THBAMP



CARDIAC?!

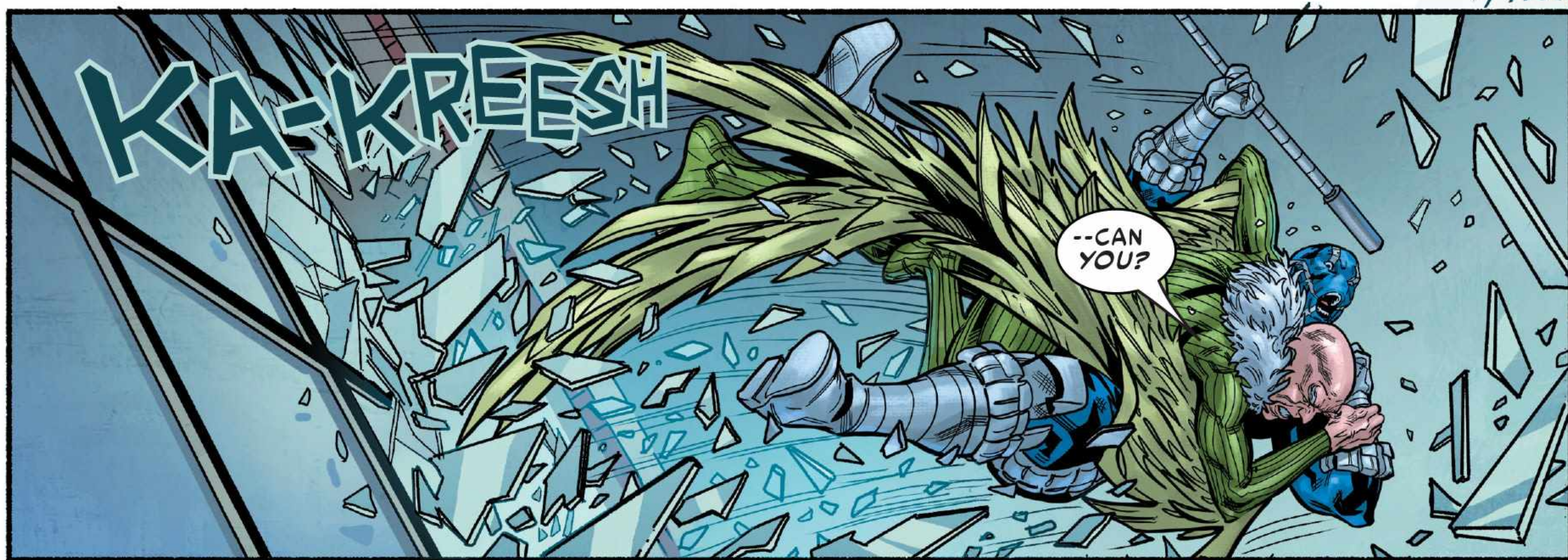
GET CIVILIAN PERSONNEL TO SAFETY!

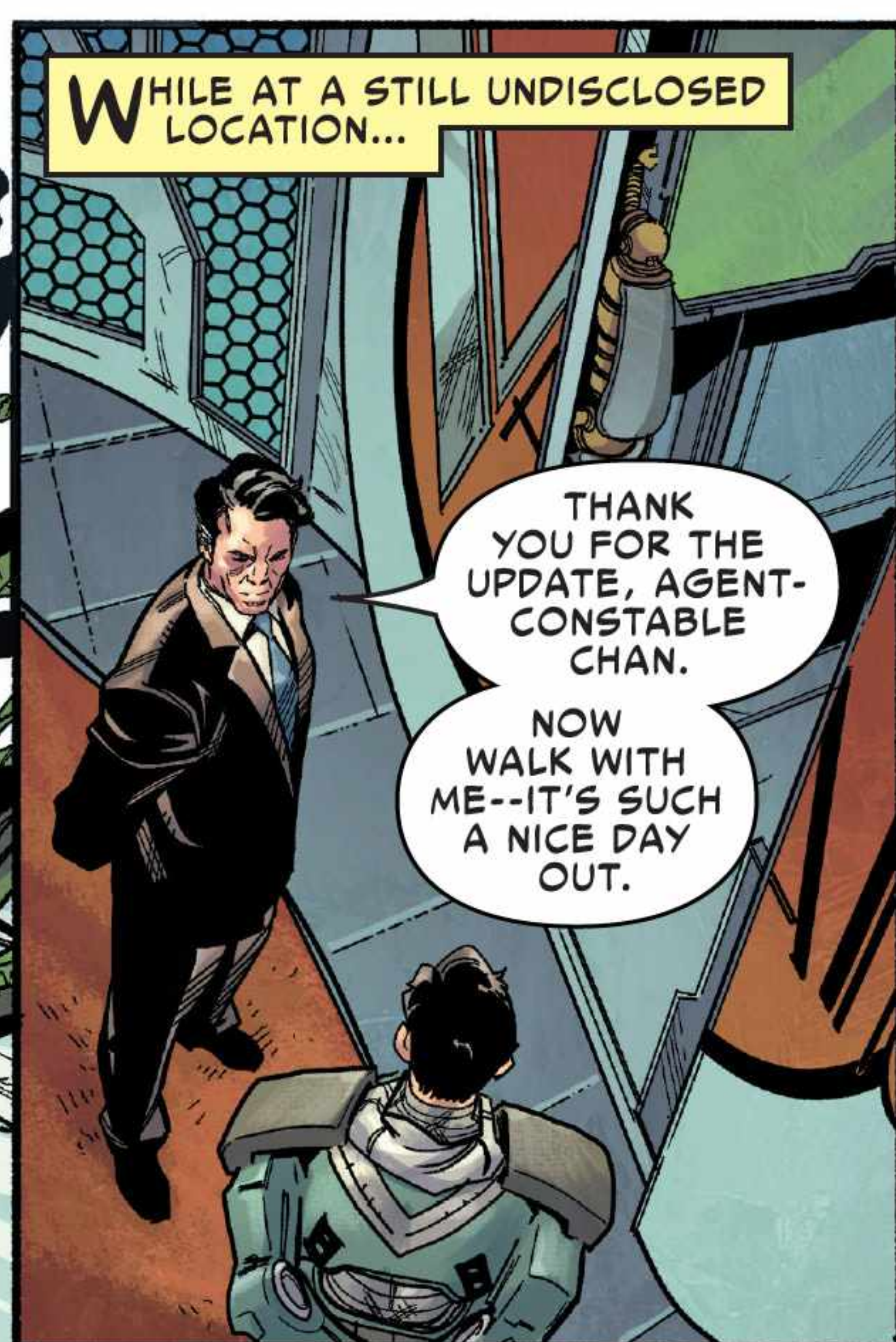
WE'VE NEVER MET, SO LET ME DO THE HONORS:

I'M THE VULTURE. I CAN FLY.



QUESTION IS--







MUST'VE BEEN A CLEARANCE SALE ON LACKEYS! THESE GUYS KEEP ON COMING!

JUST AS LONG AS THEY KEEP BREAKING...!

CHK



UH-OH! SOMETHING NEW!



WIRES MISSED US, ALMOST LIKE THEY WERE MEANT TO?

KAZHRAKAM



UNI-TROOPER/ BETA/HITS/WHAT/ SHE/TARGETS.

ELECTRICITY/ IS/HERS/TO/ COMMAND/TO/ DISRUPT--



--TO/ KILL!

ZIZIZIZZ

THAT
TICKLES!

WE
HATE
TICKLES!

NYAAA!

TZIK

KZAK

SPZT

BETA!
WE'VE GOT THE
ARTIFACT! COVER
OUR ESCAPE!

UNI-TROOPER/
BETA/UNDERSTANDS.
REDIRECTING/
ENERGY...

...SEALING/
ALL/INTERIOR/
DOORS/ONCE/
VANGUARD/
TROOPS/HAVE/
PASSED.

ALSO/INITIATING/
DISTRACTION/TO/
DISCOURGE/FURTHER/
INTERFERENCE.

DISABLING/
ALL/CURRENTLY/
ACTIVE/VEHICLE/
FUNCTIONS--

"--INCLUDING/
ROTORS/THAT/
KEEP/CRAFT/
AIRBORNE!"



VANGUARDIANS
GETTING AWAY!

LET FURY
WORRY ABOUT
THEM! WE'VE
GOT **BIGGER**
PROBLEMS!



WITHOUT
ROTORS, THE
'CARRIER'S GOING
DOWN, ANGLING
TOWARD
MANHATTAN!

CONTROL
ARRAY'S
SIMPLE ENOUGH,
BUT WITHOUT
POWER, IT'S
USELESS!

THAT
WIRE
WOMAN SAID
SHE WAS
DISABLING
FUNCTIONS
THAT WERE
CURRENTLY
ACTIVE!



BUT
ACCORDING
TO THIS
DIAGRAM,
THERE'S AN
AUXILIARY
POWER
STATION ON
A LOWER
DECK!

BUT
HOW CAN WE
ACTIVATE **THAT**
WITH ALL THE
INNER DOORS
MELTED
SHUT?



PUNDITS
LIKE TO PRATTLE
ON ABOUT HOW
EVIL NEW YORK IS,
HOW FULL OF
CRIME AND
CRUELTY.

BUT
THERE ARE
MILLIONS THERE
JUST TRYING
TO LIVE THEIR
ORDINARY
LIVES.

INNOCENT
MILLIONS...

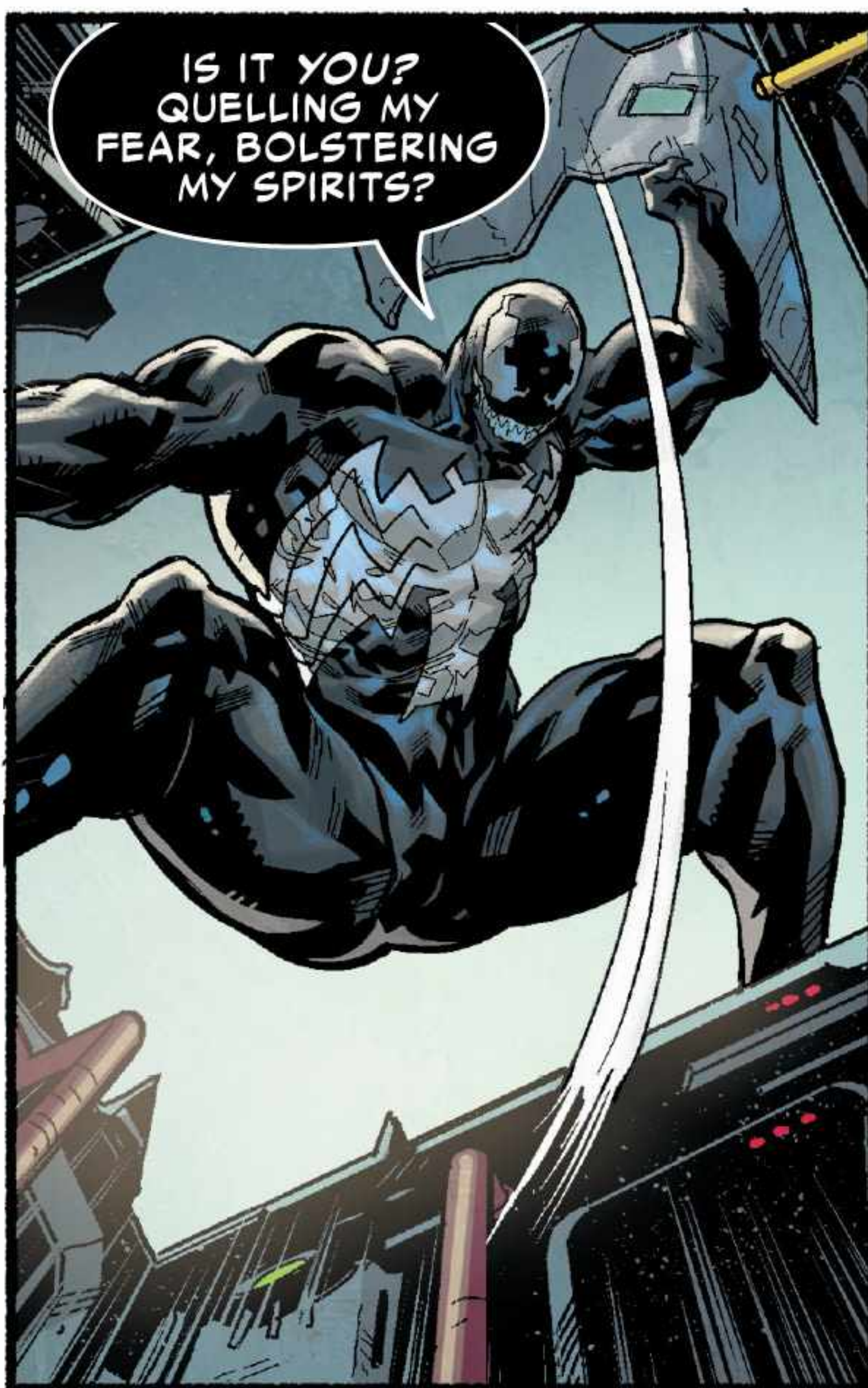


BROCK!
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

OUT.



WHRRANCH



CONTROLS
RESPONDING!
WE'VE GOT
POWER! BUT IS
IT ENOUGH
AND IN TIME?

CENTRAL
PARK! SHEEP
MEADOW'S STILL
EMPTY FROM
THE SNOW-
STORM!

GOTTA
PUSH THE
ENGINES TO
MAX! PULL THE
NOSE UP...
AND...

...PRAY!

SSLLLESHHHHHH

UNCONSCIOUS
CREW MIGHT BE
A LITTLE BRUISED,
BUT OTHER THAN
THAT, WE'RE
HOME FREE!

NO.
WE'RE
NOT.

THAT
ARTIFACT
VANGUARD
JUST GOT
AWAY
WITH?

IT'S ALIEN
TECHNOLOGY--

--WITH
THE APPARENT
ABILITY TO WIPE
OUT ALL HUMAN
LIFE ON
EARTH!

AND, FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT BE ASKING, "COULD THINGS GET WORSE...?"

YOU'RE AN IMPRESSIVE OPPONENT, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE--

--MY WINGS CAN DO THINGS OTHER THAN FLY!

AND WITHOUT YOUR **POWER STAFF**, MY MASTERY OF ELECTROMAGNETISM MAKES YOUR DEFEAT INEVITABLE!



ARROGANCE WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL, VULTURE! YOU ASSUMED MY **STAFF** POWERED MY **BODY**!



WHEN IT'S ACTUALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

THVAMP



YOU DISAPPOINT ME, VULTURE. I REALIZED WHEN YOU WERE LATE IN REPORTING YOUR SUCCESS--

--THAT ONE SHOULD NEVER SEND A MINION--

--TO DO A
MASTER'S
JOB!



**Next
Issue!**

**DOOM COMES TO
MANHATTAN!**



Next

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ZONE